

CHAPTER V.

THE ACCESSION OF MR. LINCOLN.

THE policy of the new President of the United States was distinctly declared in his Inaugural Address, and may be best stated in his own words:

"To the extent of my ability I shall take care
„ . . . that the laws of the Union be faithfully
executed in all the States. . . . I trust
this will
not be regarded as a menace, but only
as the de-
clared purpose of the Union that it will constitu-
tionally defend and maintain itself. . .
The
power confided to me will be used to hold,
occupy,
and possess the property and places
belonging to
the Government, and to collect the
duties and
imposts."

He then goes on to say that he will not use force
unnecessarily,—that he will not, for
instance, attempt
to fill the Federal offices where the
public opinion
of the region is so hostile as to render
the attempt
irritating and nearly impracticable. But
this is evi-
dently a mere matter of detail. There is
not a line
in the whole paper that evinces the
slightest doubt
in his mind as to the course to be
pursued. He
does not, it is true, give any precise
summary of
the situation; he does not say in so many
words that